Federal Facilities: Federal Prison Initiative EPA Region 3 - Philadelphia

Geographic location or area of activity: Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia

Description of activity: Region 3's Federal Prison Initiative is leading to improved compliance at 16 Federal prison facilities. In an inspection of the Federal Prison in Lewisburg, PA, the Federal Facilities Program noted several violations and brought them to the attention of the prison superintendent. The violations seemed to stem from a pattern of unsound environmental practices in water, RCRA, underground storage tanks and other areas. This discovery led to the superintendent's agreement to enable prison staff to conduct a self-audit. In June 2007, following a great deal of preparatory planning and negotiation, EPA Region 3 entered into a self-audit agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, providing for the multi-media assessment of 16 Bureau of Prisons facilities within Region 3 located in Pennsylvania (9), Maryland (1), Virginia (1), and West Virginia (5). The self-audit agreement contemplates that the audits will be completed by the year 2010, and three self-disclosure reports had already been received by December 2007.

Interagency partners: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons